

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 8-13, 15 and 33 are pending, with claims 12 and 33 being the only independent claims. Claims 8, 9, 12 and 15 have been amended. Claim 33 has been added. Claims 1-7, 14 and 16-32 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Overview of the Office Action

Claims 12-13 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Remarks

Claim 12

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and the intervening claims (claims 3, 5 and 6). As such, claim 12 is now allowable.

Withdrawal of the objection of claim 12 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 8-11, 13 and 15

Claims 8-11, 13 and 15 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 12 and, thus, each is allowable therewith.

Claim 33

Claim 33 has been added to the application to more succinctly cover certain aspects of the invention. Claim 33 is believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

It is believed this amendment raises no new issues affecting the allowability of the application nor requiring a further examination and/or search by the Examiner. Accordingly, its entry is appropriate and such action is respectfully solicited.

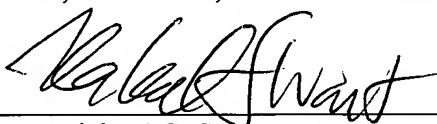
Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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